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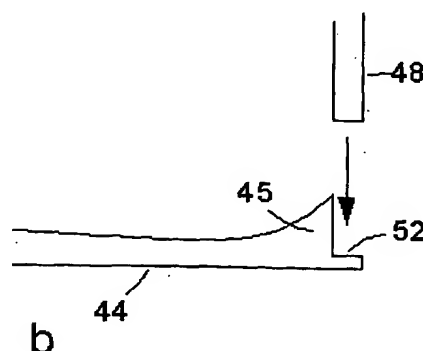
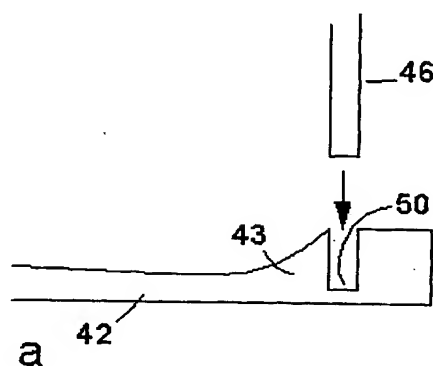
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(54) Title: **ACOUSTIC GUITAR ASSEMBLY METHOD AND APPARATUS**



(57) Abstract: A musical instrument, such as an acoustic guitar, and methods and apparatus for assembly of such a musical instrument. The instrument includes at least one major panel, such as a front panel or soundboard, and a side wall. The major panel has a groove or rebate cut into the panel according to a predetermined pattern, which may extend substantially around the periphery of the panel. A first assembly jig is used to support the panel and a second assembly jig is used to hold the side wall in a configuration corresponding to the predetermined pattern of the groove or rebate. The side wall is placed into the second jig such that a free edge of the side wall substantially follows the predetermined pattern. Adhesive is applied and the jigs are brought together such that the free edge of the side wall is inserted into the groove or rebate. A compression force is applied across the jigs to urge the side wall into the groove or rebate. The first assembly jig may also be adapted to support a neck component of the instrument in a predetermined orientation relative to the panel to enable the neck component to be adhered to the panel and to the side wall in that precise orientation. A third assembly jig may then be used to assist in securing a second major panel, such as a back panel, to an edge of the side wall. Methods for accurately fabricating panels for musical instruments using a computer controlled routing machine, such as a CNC machine, are also disclosed. A superior instrument is thereby created in significantly less time than using conventional techniques.